



Ysgol Uwchradd  
**CATHAYS**  
High School

**LITERACY**



Topics and Tips to  
help your child

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**PARENTS HELP SHEETS – CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL**  
 How to help at home with.....Speaking work (Oral work)  
 Big hints and little tips

1. Find time to talk for at least 10 mins a day	8. Introduce your child to visitors – expect some replies
2. Ask questions that do not just require 'Yes' or 'No' answers	9. Ask your child to tell younger children stories – reading from books or made up/repeated
3. Encourage your child to use the phone properly, even when speaking to friends; correct greeting and correct ending of conversation	10. Emotions and feelings are difficult to express and should be encouraged – 'How do you think Sharon feels now 'Dirty Den' is back?'
4. Discuss programmes shared on the television; ask for opinions and give yours	11. 'Just a minute' – Talk for a minute on.....This helps with revision if the topics are about things learnt in school
5. Share photographs of family holidays/events to promote discussion	12. Story telling – Start a story and take it in turns to add bits of the story on the end
6. When family holidays are being planned, discuss arrangements together using brochures etc. Ask questions like 'Would that suit us?' 'Why will that not be suitable?'	13. Play games that involve talking eg You meet David Beckham. What would you say? You are Tony Blair. Why should you keep your job?
7. Expect full sentences when questions have been asked	14. Talking is FREE!

**Be good talkers!**

**Be excellent listeners!**

# PARENTS HELP SHEETS – CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL

How to help at home with.....READING

## Big hints and little tips

1. Find somewhere quiet to read without distractions, away from the television if you are planning to read books	10. If your child gets stuck, skip a word and then come back at the end of the sentence for another try
2. Find somewhere comfortable where you can both see the book/magazine/newspaper	11. Avoid making too many interruptions. If a different word is said but it makes sense, carry on and then come back to it
3. Let your child choose what to read – it should be enjoyable not a chore	12. Try reading alternate passages/pages to add interest and pick up the pace
4. Leave plenty of time to allow for reading carefully	13. Have regular checks for understanding
5. Sit side by side – sitting opposite is uncomfortable for both	14. Ask your child to help plan events such as holidays by reading the brochures. This helps to put reading in the 'real world'
6. Try to read 10 minutes a day	15. Encourage your child to read to younger members of the family; to read to elderly relatives. This will make reading useful and helpful within the family
7. Talk about what you are reading – discuss events which tie-in with personal experiences	16. Teletext is a varied source of reading material – football reports, news about pop stars
8. Ask questions about what might happen next	17. WORD PERFECT is not necessary to get the meaning
9. Give praise and encouragement for effort and attempts to guess unknown words	18. Don't force the issue. You will kill off the desire to read by making it a chore

Make it easy for your child to practise reading – encourage use of the library, buy books.

Above all reading should be ENJOYABLE!!!

# PARENTS HELP SHEETS – CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL

## How to help at home with.....SPELLING

1. Encourage your child to look for word families eg play, playing, played, plays and rhyming words – cat bat	8. Encourage self-checking of any written work
2. Use a dictionary to talk about alphabetical order and definitions	9. Cut out words from a newspaper, jumble up the letters and ask child to sort them out
3. Encourage your child to 'Have a go and look at it!' If it looks wrong tell them to have another go	10. Use a felt pen to blank out letters in old magazines, comics, mail shot adverts. Ask child to supply missing letters
4. Don't punish for mistakes!!!	11. Ask child to help younger children with spellings
5. Use endings of words to suggest sound families. For example w-ill can become st-ill, h-ill, p-ill, f-ill	12. Look for words within words – to+get+her = together. There's a RAT in separate
6. Help your child to use the eyes as a camera for taking photographs of difficult words. Look at a word – Shut eyes and picture the word – Open eyes – Try to reproduce the word picture – Try again	13. Play games of Boss and Secretary (pairs of children can play this also). One person dictates prepared sentences, the other writes them down. They check the spellings and then swap over the roles
7. Play word and spelling games – Hangman, Junior scrabble, Crosswords, Word searches, Word Bingo etc	14. Encourage your child to join up letters when spelling a word to help remember the letter order

Spelling at home should be fun! Enjoy it together!